



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/099,877	03/15/2002	Merle Leland Green	LUC-321/Green 2-2-2-3-33	5390
47382	7590	02/08/2006	EXAMINER	
CARMEN B. PATTI & ASSOCIATES, LLC ONE NORTH LASALLE STREET 44TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60602			KOROBV, VITALI A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2155	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/099,877	GREEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vitali Korobov	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) none is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed 11/21/2005.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13-17 were amended. Claims 1 – 17 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the U. S. Patent No. 6,640,242 to O'Neal et al. (hereinafter O'Neal) in view of the U.S.

Referring to claim 1, O'Neal teaches an apparatus, comprising: one or more node components that, upon registration of one or more users in a second network subsequent to registration of one or more of the one or more users in a first network, serve to cause one or more mailbox profile portions for one or more voice mailboxes that are associated with the one or more of the one or more users to be copied from one or more first voicemail system components that are associated with the first network to one or more second voicemail system components that are associated with the second network (Fig. 1, where one or more node components comprise one or more PSTN

Art Unit: 2155

and/or Internet-based POPS, said POPS, as shown on Fig. 2 each comprise one or more registered users with one or more profile portions of said one or more registered users stored in the local datastore 202, which are copied into database 302 of Fig. 3. See also col. 5, lines 35-41 for teachings of a user profiles and portions thereof, and col. 6, lines 34-50 for replication of this data from local to master datastore), contemporaneous with a location of one or more voicemail messages, for the one or more of the one or more users, on one or more storage devices that are coupled with the one or more second voicemail system components through an internet protocol network (Col. 5, lines 25-34 – storage of messages; Col. 4, lines 55-67 – storage and retrieval of messages through the Internet; Fig. 1 – coupling of message systems through the Internet backbone 160); wherein the one or more mailbox profile portions comprise one or more addresses for one or more locations on the one or more storage devices that serve to allow the one or more of the one or more users to employ the one or more voice mailboxes on the one or more second voicemail system components to access one or more of the one or more voicemail messages on the one or more storage devices (col. 6, lines 34-50 – user addresses. Col. 6, lines 14-18 – user access to messages through either VPOP 204 and PSTN 150, or WPOP 206 and Internet 160), and wherein one of said first network and said second network is a wireless network (See commonly authored and assigned, incorporated by reference in its entirety U. S. Patent 6,463,145 to O'Neal et al., col. 6, lines 66-67 and col. 7, lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 2, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the one or more storage devices, wherein a storage device of the one or more storage

Art Unit: 2155

devices employs an address of a location on a second voicemail system component of the one or more second voicemail system components to identify a voice mailbox, of the one or more voice mailboxes, on the second voicemail system component; and wherein the voice mailbox corresponds to a voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, that is located on the storage device (Col. 5, lines 25-40 and col. 6, lines 34-50 – replication of user messages and addresses from local datastore to Internet based masterstore).

Referring to claim 3, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the one or more storage devices, wherein the one or more second voicemail system components comprise a plurality of second voicemail system components (Fig. 15 – NOC 1302 - plurality of components), and wherein the one or more storage devices comprise a plurality of file servers (Fig. 15 – file server 1512, Fig. 16 – plurality of NOCs and, therefore, plurality of file servers); and wherein a first voicemail system component of the plurality of second voicemail system components employs the internet protocol network to access a first voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on a file server of the plurality of file servers; and wherein a second voicemail system component of the plurality of second voicemail system components employs the internet protocol network to access a second voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on a file server of the plurality of file servers (Col. 2, lines 35-40 – retrieval of first voice message via voice call through the Internet. Col. 6, lines 13-17 – retrieval of second voice message via audio streamer 208 (see Fig. 2) through the Internet).

Referring to claim 4, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more second voicemail system components employ the internet protocol network to any one or more of retrieve, forward, and delete the one or more voicemail messages on the one or more storage devices (Col. 5, lines 30-34 – retrieval, forwarding and deletion of messages employing the internet protocol).

Referring to claim 5, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the one or more storage devices, wherein the one or more voicemail messages are located on the one or more storage devices, and wherein the one or more second voicemail system components comprise one or more pointers to the one or more voicemail messages (Col. 5, lines 60-67 and col. 6, line 1 – implementation of user interface in hypertext markup language).

Referring to claim 6, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more second voicemail system components comprise a first voice mailbox and a second voice mailbox; and wherein the first voice mailbox comprises an address of a location on a storage device, of the one or more storage devices; and wherein the second voice mailbox comprises the address; and wherein the address is employable by one or more of the one or more second voicemail system components to access a voicemail message, of the one or more voicemail messages, on the storage device (Col. 5, lines 25-33 and col. 6, lines 14-21).

Referring to claim 7, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 6, wherein upon modification of the voicemail message to comprise a modified voicemail message, the address serves to allow access to the modified voicemail message from the first and

Art Unit: 2155

second voice mailboxes through employment of the address (See commonly authored and assigned, incorporated by reference in its entirety U. S. Patent 6,411,685 to O'Neal, hereinafter O'Neal 1, col. 10, lines 17-23 – user modifiable fields of a voice message).

Referring to claim 8, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more second voicemail system components comprise one or more voice mailboxes that comprise one or more linked lists; and wherein the one or more linked lists comprise one or more addresses of one or more locations on one or more of the one or more storage devices; and wherein one or more of the one or more second voicemail system components employ one or more of the one or more linked lists to access one or more of the one or more voicemail messages on one or more of the one or more storage devices (O'Neal 1, col. 9, lines 24-28 - message lists; lines 57-61 deletion of list element results in message deletion. See also O'Neal, col. 9, lines 45-50 – user interface web pages running CGI scripts to execute user commands).

Referring to claim 9, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 8, wherein the one or more of the one or more linked lists comprise one or more encryption keys that serve to allow access to the one or more of the one or more voicemail messages (col. 19, lines 45-55 – HTTPS).

Referring to claim 10, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1 in combination with the one or more storage devices, wherein one or more of the one or more storage devices comprise one or more linked lists that are associated with one or more of the one or more voicemail messages on the one or more of the one or more storage devices (O'Neal 1, col. 9, lines 24-28 - message lists); and wherein the one or more

Art Unit: 2155

linked lists comprise one or more addresses of one or more locations on one or more of the one or more second voicemail system components (Col. 5, lines 35-41); and wherein the one or more locations correspond to one or more voice mailboxes on the one or more of the one or more second voicemail system components; and wherein the one or more voice mailboxes are associated with one or more intended recipients of the one or more of the one or more voicemail messages (Col. 5, lines 25-34 – forwarding of messages, lines 64-67 – graphical user interface implemented in HTML, inherently containing hypertext links).

Referring to claim 11, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 10, wherein a storage device of the one or more of the one or more storage devices serves to delete a voicemail message of the one or more of the one or more voicemail messages upon deletion of a reference to the voicemail message from each of the one or more voice mailboxes (O'Neal 1, col. 9, lines 24-28 - message lists; lines 57-61 deletion of list element results in message deletion. See also O'Neal col. 9, lines 45-50 – user interface web pages running CGI scripts to execute user commands).

Referring to claim 12, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein forwarding of a voicemail message of the one or more voicemail messages from a first voice mailbox to a second voice mailbox on the one or more second voicemail system components comprises copying of an address of the voicemail message from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox (col. 9, lines 45-50 – user interface web pages running CGI scripts to execute user commands. Col. 5, lines 25-33 – message forwarding).

Referring to claim 13, O'Neal teaches the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more node components comprise one or more service control point components that are associated with the second network (Fig. 15, logging and billing system 1506), wherein the one or more mailbox profile portions comprises one or more link information portions and zero or more setting information portions (Col. 5, lines 35-40 – various options (settings) selected by user and which affect the particular behavior of the voice message system); and wherein the one or more service control point components, upon the registration of the one or more users in the second network subsequent to the registration of the one or more of the one or more users in the first network, serve to cause the one or more mailbox profile portions for the one or more voice mailboxes that are associated with the one or more of the one or more users to be copied from the one or more first voicemail system components that are associated with the first network to the one or more second voicemail system components that are associated with the second network contemporaneous with the location of the one or more voicemail messages (Fig. 1, where one or more node components comprise one or more PSTN and/or Internet-based POPS, said POPS, as shown on Fig. 2 each comprise one or more registered users with one or more profile portions of said one or more registered users stored in the local datastore 202, which are copied into database 302 of Fig. 3. See also col. 5, lines 35-41 for teachings of a user profiles and portions thereof, and col. 6, lines 34-50 for replication of this data from local to master datastore), for the one or more of the one or more users, on the one or more storage devices that are coupled with the one or more second voicemail system components through the internet

Art Unit: 2155

protocol network (Col. 5, lines 25-34 – storage devices; Col. 4, lines 55-67 – storage and retrieval of messages through the Internet; Fig. 1 – coupling of message systems through the Internet backbone 160); and wherein the one or more first voicemail system components are coupled with the one or more storage devices through the internet protocol network (Fig. 1 – coupling of message systems through the Internet backbone 160); and wherein the one or more link information portions comprise the one or more addresses for the one or more locations on the one or more storage devices that serve to allow the one or more of the one or more users to employ the one or more voice mailboxes on the one or more second voicemail system components to access the one or more of the one or more voicemail messages on the one or more storage devices (O'Neal 1, col. 9, lines 24-28 - message lists; See also O'Neal, col. 9, lines 45-50 – user interface web pages running CGI scripts to execute user commands).

Referring to claim 14, O'Neal teaches a method, comprising the step of: copying, upon registration of a user in a second network subsequent to registration of the user in a first network, an address of a voicemail message on a second voice mailbox, on a second voicemail system component that is associated with the second network, from a first voice mailbox, on a first voicemail system component that is associated with the first network, to move an association with the user from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox (Col. 6, lines 37-49 – replication of data between local and master data stores of the first and the second mail systems) and wherein one of said first network and said second network is a wireless network (See commonly authored and

Art Unit: 2155

assigned, incorporated by reference in its entirety U. S. Patent 6,463,145 to O'Neal et al., col. 6, lines 66-67 and col. 7, lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 15, O'Neal teaches the method of claim 14, wherein the first and second voicemail system components are coupled with a storage device through an internet protocol network (Fig. 1 – coupling of message systems through the Internet backbone 160), and wherein the step of copying comprises the step of: changing on the storage device a correspondence of the voicemail message from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox (Col. 14, lines 30-36 – synchronization of local and master databases).

Claims 16-17 are rejected in view of the above rejection of claims 14-15. Claims 16-17 are essentially the same as claims 14-15, except that they set forth the invention as an article, comprising a computer-readable signal-bearing medium rather than a method, as do claims 14-15.

3. **Examiner's note:** Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 11/21/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicants argue – “O’Neal does not mention registration of one or more users, nor does O’Neal mention wireless networks, as recited in applicants’ claim 1.”

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. O’Neal does teach wireless networks (See commonly authored and assigned, incorporated by reference in its entirety U. S. Patent 6,463,145 to O’Neal et al., col. 5, lines 56-61). Further, in the same portion of the reference O’Neal teaches user authentication (See commonly authored and assigned, incorporated by reference in its entirety U. S. Patent 6,463,145 to O’Neal et al., col. 6, lines 66-67 and col. 7, lines 1-5). Authentication inherently includes prior registration, without which authentication would not be possible.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2155

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vitali Korobov whose telephone number is 571-272-7506. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday 8a.m. - 4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571)272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Vitali Korobov
Examiner
Art Unit 2155

VAK
02/03/2006


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER